

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.

Expand closed waters in the District 13 commercial herring fishery, as follows:

(7) District 13, in the waters **encompassed by a line extending from the western most tip of Makhnati Island, to the northern most tip Aleutski Island, to the Baranof Island shore at the O’Connell Bridge, north along the Baranof Island shoreline, to Harbor Point, to the northern most point of Big Gavanski Island, from the western most point of Big Gavanski Island, to northwestern tip of Crow Island, to Bieli Rocks, and ending at western most tip of Makhnati Island.** [NORTH AND WEST OF THE ELIASON HARBOR BREAKWATER AND MAKHNATI ISLAND CAUSEWAY FROM THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF MAKHNATI ISLAND TO THE EASTERNMOST POINT ON BIELI ROCK TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF GAGARIN ISLAND TO A POINT ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF CROW ISLAND AT 57Ø 06.43' N. LAT., 135Ø 28.27' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57Ø 06.41' N. LAT., 135Ø 28.11' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHEASTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57Ø 05.56' N .LAT., 135Ø 26.23' W. LONG. TO THE GREEN NAVIGATION MARKER NORTHEAST OF KASIANA ISLAND, TO THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORE AT 57Ø 05.26' N. LAT., 135Ø 22.95' W. LONG.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Exclude commercial sac roe herring fishing within a defined core spawning and subsistence area within Sitka Sound, to allow for a more reasonable opportunity for subsistence needs to be met.

In the last 15 years, subsistence needs (amount necessary for subsistence) have been met 8 times, with needs only being met three in the last 7 years (2010-2016). The harvest of herring by the sac roe fishery in or adjacent to the core subsistence herring egg harvest area disrupts prespaw and spawning herring and has a negative impact on the quantity and quality of the subsistence harvest. In 2012 the Board modified a similar proposal and approved a closure area approximately half the size of what was requested. The closure of this approved area was adhered to in 2012 and 2013, and although the ANS was not met in either of those years the closure of these waters protected the harvest that did occur. Closure of the full area requested will increase the opportunity for the ANS to be met.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The commercial herring sac-roe fishery will continue to disturb prespawning and spawning herring in this area, thus negatively affecting the subsistence fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Closure of the fishery or a significant reduction in the harvest rate.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska

(HQ-F17-072)
